

## Popular lookout tower closed to public

A popular camping destination known for its stunning views has been temporarily closed due to structural deficiencies.

The Cottage Grove Ranger District of the Umpqua National Forest announced Friday that it has closed Fairview Peak Lookout Tower southeast of Cottage Grove to the public after discovering structural deficiencies during a routine inspection. The Forest Service's Jed Hancock said that the tower has "weakness in its legs" and that the agency is in a holding pattern as it explores the best way to fix it.

"It's a very popular rental," Hancock said. "It's unfortunate that we had to call people and tell them about this."

At this time, the Forest Service said it is unknown when the tower will be repaired and open for public use.

Fairview Peak has been occupied as a



Fairview Peak Lookout Tower boasts stunning views of much of Oregon from the Bohemia Saddle.

fire lookout tower since the 1920s. The lookout cabin is a 15x15-foot room, set 53 feet above the ground. On a clear day, guests at Fairview Peak Lookout can see north to Mount Hood, south to Crater Lake and Mt. McLaughlin and east to many prominent peaks in the Cascade Range, making the tower a highly sought-after destination.

Participants of the Bohemia Mining

Days celebration will not be able to climb the tower but may drive to the top of Forest Service Road 773 and enjoy amazing views from the tower's base on Sunday, July 19.

Those interested in further information and a list of nearby tower and cabin rentals can contact the Cottage Grove Ranger Station at 541-767-5000.

## Quake shakes area early Saturday a.m.

Tremor based near Walterville causes little damage, LCSO says

Local residents who were up and about on Independence Day morning may have felt the earth move around them.

The Lane County Sheriff's Office said its personnel felt shaking at their downtown Eugene personnel office at 8:42 a.m. on Saturday, July 4. They say reports of the earthquake were felt in several areas of the county, including Sheriff Byron Trapp at his home and Emergency Manager Linda Cook at her home. The County's Emergency Management personnel initiated immediate contact with the coastal area while awaiting information about the quake location, according to Sheriff's Office spokesperson Carrie Carver.

Once confirmation was received that no shaking was felt on the coast, the focus was shifted to inland locations. The United States Geological Survey (USGS) recorded the event as a 4.2 magnitude earthquake 14 kilometers to the east/northeast of Springfield near Walterville Saturday morning at approximately

8:42 a.m. Reported impacts include an extremely loud explosion-type sound, items falling off walls and shelves and a woodpile shifting. The Sheriff's Office conducted well checks on local businesses and no major damages or injuries were reported. The US Army Corps of Engineers reported to Emergency Management they are doing routine inspections on the 13 Willamette Valley dams. After the quake, incident responders with the Oregon Department of Transportation reported that they were conducting visual inspections of bridges in the Eugene-Springfield area after the earthquake. They say there are no reports of any damage to any roadways or bridges at this time. Bridges under ODOT jurisdiction are inspected every one to two years. The agency says that, while it is highly unlikely a quake of this magnitude would damage a bridge structure, ODOT is taking the precautionary step to provide certainty to the traveling public.

## Brice Creek Road incident prompts armored response

The Lane County Sheriff's Office said Monday that a call regarding a dispute in a home off Brice Creek Road late Sunday evening prompted a response from LCSO that included an armored personnel carrier.

Sheriff's Office spokesperson Carrie Carver said that, due to limited communica-

tion in the Brice Creek area and a possible history of firearm ownership in the home, LCSO sent the armored vehicle to be able to respond to an evolving situation in the 3800 block of Brice Creek Road late Sunday night. Deputies sought to ascertain the welfare of a woman at the home who may have been involved in a domestic dispute, a woman who eventually emerged from the home several hours later, at 6:26 a.m. Monday. Following the incident, Dakota Miller was arrested and taken into custody on charges of Assault IV, Menacing and Strangulation.

## Crews extinguish hay fire in Creswell

Officials with South Lane County Fire and Rescue are still investigating a fire in a hay field that occurred on Sunday afternoon. According to Eugene news station KMTR, fire crews were able to extinguish the fire at a Creswell-area farm within 15 minutes. The fire reportedly caused no injuries, and crews were able to extinguish it before it spread to nearby trees.

## Pizza delivery driver takes out power pole

Cottage Grove Police say a charge of failure to maintain a driving lane has been filed for a pizza delivery driver that crashed into a power pole near the intersection of 10th St. and Taylor Avenue early Wednesday evening, July 1.

Officer Taylor Smith said the accident occurred about 5:30 p.m., and while Smith declined on a possible cause for the crash, saying that it is still under investigation, he indicated that inattention on the part of the driver, John Jones, was a factor.

Pacific Power spokesperson Tom Gauntt said a power outage affected about 300 customers in the surrounding neighborhood, an outage that lasted until 2 a.m. Thursday for some customers as crews worked to replace the power pole and restring power lines at the site of the crash.



photo by Helen Singer

## Installation of culvert at undercrossing delayed

Workers with Weitman Excavation say the planned installation of a box culvert at the construction site of an undercrossing of Row River Road southeast of Cottage Grove last week was delayed by the breakage of part of the culvert on its way to the job site.

Preparations for an undercrossing that will bring the Row River Trail — a bike trail that leaves Cottage Grove before skirting Dorena Reservoir on a 34-mile loop — under Row River Road have been going on for some time, and the installation of the box culvert was expected to occur on Wednesday, July 1, according to a Weitman Excava-

tion spokesperson.

But on Wednesday, workers informed the Sentinel that a piece of the box culvert was broken in transit and will have to be repaired. They said they hope to install the culvert sometime this week.

The death of cyclist and former Cottage Grove High School counselor Michele Portmann at the intersection in a 2011 crash helped prompt Lane County and the Bureau of Land Management to explore safety issues throughout the trail, and a federal grant funded the construction of the undercrossing, which county officials expect to be complete by the end of the summer.

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